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PR 610 C The Servant as Proclaimer

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PR610c The Servant as Proclaimer (3hrs)

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Spring Term 2004 (9thFeb – 18thMay)
Tuesdays, 6:15 – 9:00 pm
M307
Final Exam: 18th May
Professor Joy J. Moore, PH.D (abd)
joy_moore@asburyseminary.edu
SPO 1313

Office: Beeson Center BC219
859.858.2083
Spring 04 Office Hours:
Wed 1:30 – 3:30 pm
Th 9:30-10:30am
Or by appointment
*(Generally unavailable on Mondays
due to Meetings)*

Course Description

In the presence of the multiplicity of approaches to preaching, how does one orally communicate something of relevance from ancient texts to contemporary audiences? Should preaching provide entertainment, information, or persuasion? Are those to whom preachers speak to be considered consumers, spectators, or conversation partners? How might Wesleyan doctrines inform the oral interpretation of Scripture?

As a prerequisite to all preaching courses, it is intended that this class provide an introduction to preaching as a theological and pastoral activity. Core objectives of this course will be to gain a critical understanding of and competence in preaching as a theological and ecclesial practice in view of 1) preaching as an act of witness to the Gospel revealed in the Christian Scriptures and 2) preaching as both a gift of the Holy Spirit and a human vocation which serve the formation of a community capable of worshipping the God of Jesus Christ. An emphasis will be placed upon the life-long task of acquiring practical competencies appropriate to the pastoral vocation, focusing on the cultivation of judgment required for faithful communication of the biblical witness in service of the gospel in the context of personal, social and cultural challenges. This course views the theological discipline of preaching from the perspective of the Wesleyan tradition: Christian rhetoric shaped by a conscious integration of exegesis, hermeneutics, and doctrine for a 21st century audience.

Prerequisites: SP501 and Inductive Bible Studies – 2.

OBJECTIVES

Having successfully completed this course, participants should be able to:

- Relate principles of exegesis to the effective communication of a Wesleyan expression of faith;
- Discuss knowledgeably critical issues related to preaching in the contemporary context and their relationship to effective communication of the biblical witness in a variety of settings for facilitating congregational worship;
- Demonstrate facility of the biblical narrative for enriching the language of preaching;
- Present both outline and manuscript forms of a message that integrates exegesis, theology and hermeneutics for the context of worship;
- Exhibit homiletical capacity for sermon delivery that faithfully communicates an explicitly Christian, theologically ruled, ecclesially located biblical witness; and
- Articulate a theology of Christian preaching for proclamation and witness in a way that integrates the above concerns in theory and practice, articulating a variety of means by which to communicate the gospel.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND READING

Class Preparation, Assignments and Participation (20%):

- Assigned reading should be completed by the day listed. Attendance at and readiness to participate in all sessions of the class is expected.
- Note that unless stated otherwise, all papers should be double-spaced, typed, with a standard 12-point font like Times New Roman and one-inch margins. Written materials must be submitted on time. Late work will be read and graded but will receive no written comments. Pastoral responsibilities almost always include the weekly preparation of sermons regardless of circumstances. Therefore, late assignments of any sort will result in an automatic reduction of grade by one letter. For each additional day an assignment is late, additional reductions will result.
- Persons are expected to participate frequently and substantively in peer evaluation, demonstrating constructive criticism and their reflective interaction with course reading and the sermon's content. Prepare for each class session by (1) carefully reading the assigned texts, (2) taking notes on the assigned biblical text (see the preaching schedule, below), and (3) identifying their own observations for sermon development.

Sermon Design and Delivery (60%)

- Each participant will preach three sermons in class and write one additional sermon. In-class sermons will be from assigned texts. For each sermon, a manuscript, prepared in advance, (including exegetical notes, and pastoral reflection that substantiate your homiletical development) is to be submitted at the beginning of class on the day the sermon is due. These should evidence a close reading of the text on its own terms, with attention to the usual literary, sociohistorical, and theological concerns.

Final Assignment (20%):

- A written essay describing your theology for preaching. Though not a research paper, this work should reflect your developing reflection on Christian proclamation in light of an integration of your ongoing theological education and the concerns of this class.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- ⇒ Barth, Karl, *Homiletics*. Translated by Geoffrey W. Bromiley and Donald E. Daniels. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1991;
- ⇒ Eslinger, Richard, *Narrative and Imagination: Preaching the Worlds That Shape Us*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995;
- ⇒ Lischer, Richard, ed. *The Company of Preachers: Wisdom on Preaching from Augustine to the Present*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: W. B. Eerdmans, 2002; and
- ⇒ Quindlen, Anna, *How Reading Changed My Life*. New York: Ballantine Publishing Group, 1998.
- ⇒ Gunter, Stephen W., Scott J. Jones, Ted A. Campbell, Rebekah L. Miles, and Randy Maddox, *Wesley and the Quadrilateral: Renewing the Conversation*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1997.

COLLATERAL READING

- ⇒ Long, Thomas G. *The Witness of Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1989;
- ⇒ LaRue, Cleophus J., *The Heart of Black Preaching*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2000; and
- ⇒ Campbell, Charles L., *Preaching Jesus: New Directions for Homiletics in Hans Frei's Postliberal Theology*, 1997.

Assignment Schedule

Due Feb 17th – A 1 page Review and Response to Quindlen's
How Reading Changed My Life with Formational Book List
Due Mar 9th – A 3-4 page Critical Review of Barth's *Homiletic*
Due May 4th – Notebooks of Quotes, Thoughts and Starters

Sermons:

On March 2nd, everyone will submit a written sermon for **ONE** of the following occasions: Mother's Day **OR** July 4th **OR** Easter Sunday **OR** Christmas **OR** Thanksgiving. For this sermon describe your audience, preferably a real congregation you know about, and describe the worship setting, therein setting the length and context for the sermon. (*Texts for May 11th to be assigned*)
On March 16th or 23rd you will give a 9-10 minute homily on passage assigned March 2nd.
On April 13th or 20th you will give a 9-10 minute homily in class, using notes only. Your text will be assigned from a lectionary reading in Lent. (*assigned on Feb 17th*)
On May 11th, everyone will give a 5-6 minute homily, without manuscripts or notes. The sermon should be set in a worship context that will include baptism.

Grade Range: Work for PR610 will be evaluated at a graduate/professional school level.

<i>A = 95-100 Unusually high quality, exceptional work</i>	<i>D+ = 67-69 Minimal work</i>
<i>A- = 90-94 Far above average, fine work</i>	<i>D = 63-66 barely acceptable</i>
<i>B+ = 87-89 Above average for graduate work</i>	<i>D- = 60-62 poor</i>
<i>B = 83-86 Very good, average for graduate work</i>	<i>F = 59 or below Failure.</i>
<i>B- = 80-82 Slightly below average for graduate work</i>	
<i>C+ = 77-79 Meets requirements, but noticeable inadequacies for graduate work</i>	
<i>C = 73-76 Meets requirements, but with significant gaps for graduate work</i>	
<i>C- = 70-72 Meets requirements, but serious gaps</i>	

As a foundational course for developing a theology of preaching, one of the objectives of this class is to set a trajectory for learning. The percentage of the final grade increases with each of the initial assignments. Value is placed on student demonstration of improvement over the course of the semester.

Attendance Policy:

One class may be missed without makeup. After this (one class missed), extra reading is required (50 pages per day missed: from the recommended reading list) and a one page single-spaced paper summarizing the extra reading. Two unexcused absences will result in the final grade being lowered by one full letter. If three classes are missed—serious conversation between student and professor is needed.

Spring 04 Course Schedule

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| 10 Feb | 1. Public Christian Communication in a Post-Modern Context
READING DUE: <i>Wesley and the Quadrilateral</i> , pg63-75.
Readings for next week: <i>The Company of Preachers</i> , pg 277-354.
<i>How Reading Changed My Life</i> by Quindlen |
| 17 Feb | 2. Christian Rhetoric in Theology and Proclamation
Assignment Due: Review and Response to Quindlen with Book List.
Readings for next week: <i>The Company of Preachers</i> , pg 3-53;
<i>Wesley and the Quadrilateral</i> , pg 77-106. |
| 24 Feb | 3. Theories of Preaching
Readings for next week: <i>Narrative and Imagination</i> , pg 3-137.
<i>Wesley and the Quadrilateral</i> , pg39-61. |
| 2 Mar | 4. CSI: The Witness of Preaching
Assignment Due: WRITTEN SERMON
Readings for next week: <i>The Company of Preachers</i> , pg 355-408;
<i>Homiletics</i> by Karl Barth |
| 9 Mar | 5. Audience Attention When Conversation is Monologue
Assignment Due: Review of Barth's Homiletic
Readings for next week: <i>Wesley and the Quadrilateral</i> , pg 107-127. |
| 16 Mar | 6. ORAL SERMONS
Criterion for Preaching Jesus
Readings for next week: <i>The Company of Preachers</i> , pg 169-276; |
| 23 Mar | 7. ORAL SERMONS continued
Passion and Hope: Ecclesiology that Follows Christology |
| 30 Mar | No Class – Spring Reading Week
Reading for next week: <i>The Company of Preachers</i> , pg 57-166 & 411-467 |
| 6 Apr | 8. Preacher- Seeker: Finding Critical Distance
Reading for next week: <i>Narrative and Imagination</i> , pg 141-222;
<i>Wesley and the Quadrilateral</i> , pg 17-38 |
| 13 Apr | 9. SERMONS and Evaluation |
| 20 Apr | 10. SERMONS and Evaluation continued |
| 27 Apr | 11. Spirit-Filled Preaching: What God Alone Does |
| 4 May | 12. Somebody Said: Authentic Sermons Audiences Remember
Due: Notebooks |
| 11 May | 13. Baptism Sermons and Evaluation |
| 18 May | 14. What Next? First and Only Sermons
Due: Final Assignment due at beginning of class on 18th May 2004. |

An essay expressing your theology for preaching of approximately 2500 words, typed, double-spaced, with appropriate notes and bibliography to indicate who and what influences your thought. A product of your semester's work, this essay should reflect your own personal thinking. Representing your claim as to why and how we preach, this work should evidence faithfulness to the biblical witness narrated in Christian Scripture, critical engagement with the challenges of the early 21st century situation, and constructive work in the practical theology of homiletics as a reflection on assigned readings.

PLAGIARISM:

Plagiarism is the presenting of another's ideas or writings as one's own including both written and oral presentations. While preaching involves the repetition of ideas and concepts commonly held, by performing your own exegesis and idea development, your sermons will be fresh, new, and current, rather than work you have already used or presentations of a sermon presented by someone else. This will serve also to enrich your performance, as you offer original sermons which reflect your theological understanding and preserve your integrity as a witness of God.

In cases of suspected plagiarism, the instructor will meet with the student, to determine whether plagiarism has in fact been committed. In cases of student plagiarism, the instructor, working in conversation with the dean of the student's School, reserves the options, depending on her judgment regarding the severity and recurrence of the problem: (1) to provide an opportunity for the student to redo the same or comparable assignment, typically with the grade for that assignment penalized to account for the act of plagiarism; (2) to record a failing grade for the assignment in question; (3) to fail the student for the course; and (4) to recommend to the dean of the student's School that the student be dismissed from the Seminary. A written report of the episode and of the disciplinary action taken will be submitted to and affirmed by the dean of the student's School. The student may appeal the decision of the instructor through the normal appeal process.

Conduct that is considered dishonest includes: reusing previously and/or concurrently submitted material in another class without faculty permission, cheating by copying from another's work, allowing another to copy from one's own work, reading an examination prior to the date it is given without the instructor's permission, and similar types of conduct. Unlawful duplication of copyrighted material such as music, library materials, computer software, as well as plagiarism, are other examples of academic dishonesty. (Seminary guidelines related to acceptable duplication practice of copyrighted materials can be found at the library's circulation desk.)

(...adapted from ATSeminary's policy regarding plagiarism)

Incomplet Policy

The official end of each term is 4:00 p.m. on the last day of the examination schedule. (Spring 2004 = May 20th) This hour is the deadline for handing in all course work. Each instructor may set an earlier deadline for submission of any and all course work (Spring 2004 = Noon, May 19th) The Student must petition the faculty person involved and the student's advisor for permission to receive an "I" at the end of a semester.

A grade of "I" denotes that the work of a course has not been completed due to an unavoidable emergency, which does not include delinquency or attending to church work or other employment. If the work of a course is incomplete at the end of a term without an emergency, a letter grade will be given based on the grades of work done, with incomplete work counted as "F".

Incomplete grades shall be removed one calendar month prior to the close of the following semester unless an earlier date is designated by the Office of the Chief Academic Officer on the individual petition. If the work is not completed by the time designated, the "I" shall be changed to an "F" unless a passing grade can be given based on work already completed or unless special permission is granted by the Chief Academic Officer.

Professors are required to give either a grade or an "I", if approved to each student registered for credit in a course.

Students with Incompletes in two or more classes will not be allowed to enroll in new semester or term without permission from their Dean.

(From page 28 of the 2003 – 2004 Catalog)

- Lecture notes and PowerPoint presentations will be made available on the network.